State Representative Dave Zimmerman

Elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2014, David H. Zimmerman is a fiscal conservative dedicated to serving his community.

Born and raised on a dairy farm in the 99th Legislative District, Dave was instilled with the traditional Lancaster County values of hard work, prudence, and community service.

Dave is a lifelong Lancaster County resident and lives in East Earl with his wife, Ruth Ann. They have three children and seven grandchildren.
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Dairy

- Pennsylvania ranked 5\textsuperscript{th} in the nation for total milk production
- As of January 2018, there are approximately 525,000 cows in Pennsylvania
- Of that number, approximately 100,000 cows are in Lancaster County
- Lancaster County ranks 1\textsuperscript{st} in Pennsylvania and 8\textsuperscript{th} in the United States for dairy production
- Milk sales generate $2 billion per year for the Pennsylvania economy
- From 2007 to 2012, average production costs for U.S. dairy farmers increased by 31%

Source: Lancaster Farmland Trust-Openviews Summer 2018
Lancaster County Agriculture

- Lancaster County has 425,336 acres of farmland (68% of land)
- Over 99% of Lancaster farms are family-owned
- Lancaster County ranks 1st in Pennsylvania and 15th in the United States for the value of agricultural products sold
- Lancaster County has over 5,600 farms, with over 1,700 of them being dairy farms
- Lancaster County ranks 1st in the US in layers, 2nd in pullets, 3rd in corn for silage, and 4th in poultry and eggs (out of 3,079 counties in the US)
- Of Pennsylvania’s 1.25 million pigs, close to 360,000 are in Lancaster
- Lancaster County leads Pennsylvania in food processing, employing over 5,000 individuals (twice the concentration of national average)

Source: Lancaster County Agricultural Council https://www.lancasteragcouncil.com/resources
Chesapeake Bay Watershed
Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- 64,000 square miles of land that drains into the narrow, 200 mile long bay
- Watershed region is home to 18 million people
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed covers almost 2/3 of Pennsylvania
- Water travels into the bay via the Susquehanna River
- Half of freshwater flow to the bay comes from Pennsylvania
- 34,000 farms are located in Chesapeake Bay Watershed, 5,000 of which are located in Lancaster County

Source: Penn State AgScience-Spring/Summer 2018
Susquehanna River & the Conowingo Dam
Borough of Ephrata

- Located in northeastern section of Lancaster County
- Historical roots dating back to early 1700’s
- Drinking water & sewer treatment systems
- Municipal electric system that included a solar farm
- Working towards:
  - Economic development
  - Smart Green Corridor
  - Gasification
  - Biochar
Precision Farming

- Manure management
- Fertilizer application
- Pesticide application
- Seed and planting
- Rural broadband access
- Agricultural technology
- Energy conservation
Government Role Investment in Precision Agriculture

- United States Department of Agriculture offers a precision farming incentive program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Little or no incentive at the state level in Pennsylvania, reluctance to try new ideas
- Lack of effective rural broadband programs at federal and state levels of government
- Many parts of rural Pennsylvania still lack access to high speed broadband internet service
Public Private Partnerships

- Cooperative agreement between public and private sector organizations
- Common in some areas of Pennsylvania government (transportation) but not permitted or embraced in other areas (environmental)
- Provides opportunity for innovation outside of government methods
- Can help provide clarity and unified vision on large-scale infrastructure projects
- Allows outside expertise to be applied to government projects
Smart Green Corridor

- Healthy Soils/Healthy Waters/Healthy Communities
- Legacy sediment management and removal
- Pollution mitigation ponds
- Hydro electric & dam development
- Modernized storm water management systems, including green streets and roads
- Conservation and recreation opportunities
- Utilization of solar electric
- Manure-to Energy/Biochar Production
- Precision Ag
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Responsible land use and stewardship
Benefits of Biochar

- Turning a problem into a solution for environmental improvement
- Creates value and marketability for manure byproducts
- Incentivizes, rather than mandating, farmers and municipalities
- Creative solution to a complex problem
- New and innovative ideas are absolutely essential to truly address federal mandates and legitimate environmental issues
- Fits very well with the agricultural community of Lancaster County
Questions?